IMHO Microsoft is a monoply.

1) OS dominance leveraged to maintain/create Application dominance
2) Application platform exclusivity to maintain/expand OS dominance

Remedy/Solutions:

1) Seperate the OS from the Apps.:
      seperate the development/marketing decisions of MS-OS from
MS-APPS, this may require seperation of money/ownership.

2) If MS provides an application free/below market value, then they
should have to garantee it remains free for lets say 10years, that way
we ensure it is not leveraging its OS profits for APPlication
development. (Maybe allow pay-for distribution if app is pulled from
market for 2yrs prior to return to the market place)

3) MS should offer OS-build-in-apps(free) as a second source-cd
distribution seperate from their OS. Also these free apps should be
installed in the same manor as other third party vendors. Should not be
placed on start-bar as intrinsic to the OS.

4) If a MS-App gains a certain percentage of OS saturation or profit
margin, then it should be required to port that app to other OS's

Overview/Background/Discussion:

MS (Microsoft) dominance as an OS (Operating System) provider gives them
leverage as an Application provider. MS has manipulated it's OS to gain
Application market share. This has occured by devalualing the actual
cost of Application development from the App to the OS. In a Second
method MS has modified its OS to give it's Applications prominance: by
use of default settings and uninstallable Apps: DirectX, Internet
explorer are not uninstallable (I believe MS's latest audio/visual
player behaves the same). Thirdly, MS has limited OEM's ability to
"bundle" third party apps with new machine sales. MS has used pricing
leverage to limit third party inclusion.

MS does not provide it's excellent Application to other OS's (except in
the MS-office/MAC case). The is small sales benefit of porting MS-Word
to Linux/Solaris definitely out ways the possible loss of Desktop OS

share. (IF MS-word was available to Unix, there would be very little
push to move from Unix to MS-OS.) But, because of the MS-word reliance
on MS-OS there is a trend to move from Unix to MS-OS. In my employment
case, most users have two machines, one to run engineering apps and
another computer to run MS-OS/MS-Office. I believe MS does not port it's
Apps to Unix because it would negatively effect MS-OS market share.

Overall MS does a wonderful job on its user interfaces and with
interoperablity of its applications, but I believe the ability of
microsoft to leverage it's OS dominance to benifit it application market
and it's ability to limit its apps to a particular platform restrict
industry growth and increase reliance on MS instead of providing a
better market.

I think the proper solution is to seperate the development/marketing
decisions of MS-OS from MS-APPS, this may require seperation of
 money/ownership.

BTW: Having MS pay for computers and OS's for schools and local
governments is not a solution, it has nothing to do with the problem. It
is just greedy politicians looing for handouts from greedy corporations.

Ross M. DeStafeno